THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes sir, an agreement on the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum was signed on March 21, 2000 in New Delhi. The main objectives of the Forum are: 1) to facilitate and promote Indo-US interaction of governments, academia and industry in Science and Technology and other related areas 2) to focus on issues of common concern and activities of mutual benefit while exploring trends in science and technology. 3) to promote research and development, the transfer of technology and creation of a comprehensive electronic reference Cource for Indo-US Science and Technology Cooperation. 4) to promote an active electronic exchange of ideas and opportunities in Indo-US Science and Technology Cooperation.

The sanctions are applicable only to a set of institutions of the entity list from which 52 Indian institutions have been removed recently. A vast majority of Indian academic and research institutions that are not on the entity list are not affected by the sanctions and these institutions would be able to participate in forum activities without any hindrance.

Damage of Lucky Art paper at NISCOM

3806. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director-in-Charge of National Institute of Science Communication, a constitutent establishment of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A.K. Sen to examine the damage of Lucky Art paper in the store of NISCOM:

(b) if so, the details of the Committee's report; and

(c) any member/members of the above Committee facing an inquiry with the Central Vigilance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MONOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The committee having examined the matter submitted its Report. The committee found that the Art paper got damaged due to dampness. Out of the 59 reams, print worthy paper equal to 25 reams has been retrieved.

(c) Yes Sir, the member convenor of the committee is facing a Departmental inquiry with the Central Vigilance Commission.